



## Publisher's Notes

"Once upon a time...", such is the beginning of a story that may have accompanied many people through their childhood no matter what country they live in and what language they speak. When we grow up, we remain keen on one kind of stories or another. This is because stories always keep us at a fascinating distance: things that take place around us may drive home to us a timeless truth, while remote or illusory stories may as well be relevant to reality or reflect the problems of today.

However, if a story is linked with the name of a country, what can the listener expect from it?

The *China Stories* series is dedicated to those who are fond of stories and hope to know about China. The reason why we have chosen this way of storytelling is that while people nowadays may easily get to know a country by turning on the television, surfing the Internet or touching a cell-phone screen, we believe stories make China look more vivid, serene and down-to-earth than media or political or economic commentators, historical archives or museums do.

Our stories or "storytellers" generally fall into two categories. Firstly, small works of big names in contemporary Chinese literature, such as *The Love Story of a Young Monk* by Wang Zengqi and *Ah, Xiangxue* by Tie Ning; Secondly, Chinese tales told by writers from other lands from the "other" perspective, like *The Magic of the White Snake* by the German freelancer Helmut Matt. The differences in settings, plots and the storytellers' personalities have added to the charisma of our stories. This *China Stories* series will maintain its openness by putting forth new stories, so as to present a rich, varied three-dimensional China to our readers. In this sense, this series is catered not only to foreign friends but also to Chinese-speaking natives so that they can observe this country from a fresh point of view.

Instead of lengthy narratives that may wear our readers down, the *China Stories* series is a collection of short stories and novellas that are meant for a pleasant reading experience, an experience that is made all the more delightful by our elaborately produced bilingual texts and beautiful illustrations.

Whether the story-teller or the listener comes from China or elsewhere, we believe that you can derive your own impression of China from these stories, and feel closer to it whether it was familiar or strange to you before you lay your hands on the *China Stories* series. So let's read *China stories*, and get a taste of China from them.

Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press  
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## 出版说明

“很久很久以前……”，许多人的童年或许都伴随着这样开头的故事，无论她或他身处哪个国家，说着何种语言。当我们长大，依然热衷于各种故事。因为故事总是与人们保持一种远近适宜的奇妙距离：身边发生的故事有时能让人悟到恒久长远的道理，而遥远的甚至虚幻的故事又能使人联想到现实的处境，回应当下的问题。

而当故事与一个国家的名称联系在一起的时候，又会给听者一种怎样的期待？

《中国故事》系列丛书献给那些喜欢听故事并且希望了解中国的人们。之所以选择这种方式而不是别的——毕竟，现在想了解一个国家，打开电视，浏览互联网，或者触摸一下手机屏幕就可以做到——因为我们相信，比起新闻媒体、政经评论或者历史文献、博物馆陈列中的中国，也许故事所反映的那个中国来得更真切，更沉静，也更实在。

故事的来源，或者说“讲故事的人”大体有两类。一方面我们收集了现当代一些中国文学大家的小作品，例如汪曾祺的《受戒》，铁凝的《哦，香雪》；另一方面，来自中国以外的作者们基于“他者”的视角重述中国的传奇，例如德国赫尔穆特·马特先生的《白蛇传奇》。故事的背景和事件彼此不同，更因叙述者的个性特征而平添魅力，本系列还将不断推新以保持一种开放性。因此呈现给各位的这一套丛书应该是丰富和立体的，希望借此传达的中国形象也能更加真实、丰满。从这个意义上讲，丛书的目标读者应不仅仅限于海外的朋友，其实也包括以中文为母语的读者们，以便透过新鲜的角度来观察这个国家。

这里没有宏大的叙事，而是以中短篇小说的篇幅给读者绝不沉重的阅读体验。这种轻松感还将通过我们精心提供的双语文本和优美插图得到进一步的体会。

无论讲故事的人以及听故事的人是来自中国还是其他国家，我们都相信您能从故事中获得自己对于中国的印象，对这个已经熟悉或者还很陌生的国度，更多一点儿亲近——阅读中国的故事，品味故事中的中国。

外语教学与研究出版社

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一切都有个说法，  
在每一个习俗的背后都隐藏着深刻的涵义。  
这便是我在中国之行中的感悟。

Everything has its own significance, and each  
custom reveals a deeper meaning. This is one  
of the discoveries made during my journeys  
throughout china.

— HELMUT MATT



## Preface to the Chinese-English Version

Two years after publication of the original German version, this book is now ready to reach readers beyond the German-Chinese language barrier. The eminent history of China, its philosophy and culture, as well as the moving myths and fairy tales still, today, provide the fundamentals for the lives of the people of the Middle Kingdom. The legend of the white snake is known everywhere in China — for centuries this drama has touched the hearts of humankind.

A classic Chinese work seen through the eyes of a European evolves into a new story: what will Chinese readers think of this well-known tale transformed yet again? Two very different cultures join in a drama of love and passion; sprung from the deep emotions of the apparent conflict, a new world emerges in which time and space have lost their power.

Above all, I would like to thank my wife, Linda, who with great sensitivity and much understanding for the poetic language of the original version successfully translated my novel and made the publication of this Chinese-English version possible.

My thanks also go to my publisher, FLTRP, especially to Ms. Deng. Without her aid and support, this book would never have been printed in China.

It is my heartfelt wish that this story opens the eyes of its readers for the unique fascination and magic that arises when various cultures meet, enabling them to take first step toward a mutual understanding and to find ways of sharing common expression.

Helmut Matt  
Herbolzheim, March, 2012

## 中英对照版序

在《白蛇传奇——中国的魔法世界》中德对照版出版两年之际，该书的中英对照版如今问世，呈现给德、汉两种语言之外更多的读者。中国源远流长的历史，璀璨的哲学和文化，以及动人的神话传说，时至今日，仍在为这个国家里人们的生活提供根基。“白蛇传”的故事在中国家喻户晓，几个世纪以来，一直震撼着人们的心灵。

一部中国经典作品，透过一位欧洲人的视角，演化成一个新的故事。中国的读者们对这个经久流传又被重新诠释的故事，会有怎样的看法？两种完全不同的文化在一部爱情传说中交织、融合。从表面的冲突之下蕴藏的深切情感中，一个新的世界展现出来，让时间和空间都失去了力量。

首先，我要感谢我的妻子琳达。她敏感又充满感知力，成功地将我原作中诗意的语言翻译成英文，使这本中英对照本得以出版。

我还要感谢这本书的出版商，外语教学与研究出版社，尤其要感谢邓女士。由于她的无私帮助和大力支持，这本书才得以在中国问世。

我衷心祝愿，这个故事能够让读者体会到不同文化交汇时所展现的独特魅力与魔力，使其迈出相互理解的第一步，并找到分享共同感情的方式。

赫尔穆特·马特

2012年3月于赫伯兹海姆



## Preface to the Chinese-German Version

China is a fabulous world of stories, myths, and legends. Despite the extensive destruction in its long history, the country retained an abundance of unique natural, cultural, and intellectual treasures.

Everything has its own significance, and each custom reveals a deeper meaning. This is one of the discoveries made during my journeys throughout China.

The landscapes and natural beauties of a country are always closely related to its cultural values. In China, almost each place tells its own story.

Zhejiang is a province in Southeast China. For many Chinese people, the West Lake of Hangzhou, vibrant capital of the province, is one of the most beautiful places in the whole country. Even visitors from Western countries let themselves be inspired by the age-old cultured landscape. In order to experience the romantic beauty of the West Lake to its full extent, it is worthwhile to view the landscape in historical perspective in regard to its tales and legends. *The Legend of the White Snake* is one of the four most famous and most touching love dramas in Chinese history. The mythos is portrayed closely interwoven with the West Lake, its landscapes and inhabitants in this book.

The story itself is inseparable from the customs and traditions of the country. Understanding the plot and its background landscape becomes easier if its historical and traditional context is considered.

## 原中德对照版序

中国是一个充满故事、神话与传说的国度。即使经历沧桑变迁，这个国家依然保留着无穷无尽的自然、文化和精神宝藏。

一切都有个说法，在每一个习俗的背后都隐藏着深刻的涵义。这便是我在中国之行中的感悟之一。

一个国家的人文与自然景观总是和文化价值紧密相连。在中国，几乎所有的地方都在讲述自己的故事。

浙江省位于中国东南部，其省会杭州是一个活力四射的城市，那里的西湖堪称中国人眼中最美的地方之一。来自西方的游客们也不禁会被这古老的文化景致深深吸引。若要感受她全部的魅力与浪漫，应当把风景与当地的传说联系起来。《白蛇传》是中国古代四大爱情传奇之一\*。本书向您呈现的就是这个故事和西湖风景及百姓生活之间的渊源。

\*另外三个故事分别是《牛郎织女》、《孟姜女》和《梁山伯与祝英台》。

白蛇的故事本身和中国的风俗习惯密不可分。如果对这段历史和传统的关联有所了解，就会更容易理解故事情节和作为背景的风景名胜。

单纯去复述《白蛇传》的故事并不是我写这本书的目的。毕竟，它已经有太多的版本和解说了。风光和传说构成了叙述的框架。人物和情节在这本书里得到了重新塑造，并且和故事发生的地点有着史诗般的联系。

It was not my intention to simply renarrate the *Legend of the White Snake*. The large variety of versions and interpretations would not allow this at any event. Landscape and legend provide only the framework. In my novella, the protagonists are reborn and the plot recreated in a unique epic relationship to the places described in the story.

Most of the photos were taken on my trips to Beijing and to the south-eastern province of Zhejiang. I want to thank the German Service of China Radio International, especially Director Sun Jingli for giving me permission to use several illustrations and photos.

It is my sincere wish that this book find a large number of readers and that it may contribute to a greater open-mindedness and better understanding of China, its customs, landscapes, and people.

Helmut Matt  
Herbolzheim, Germany, August 2008

书中所用的大多数照片是我在北京和浙江旅行时拍摄的。在这里也衷心感谢中国国际广播电台德语部及其主任孙景立先生慷慨授权我使用一些插图和照片。

衷心希望本书能拥有众多读者，为帮助我们以更知性和更开放的心态去感受中国的风土人情略尽绵薄之力。

赫尔穆特·马特

2008年8月于德国赫伯兹海姆



## The Mysterious *Jiaozi*

A fine drizzle touches the skin. Behind tender veils of slowly-rising mist, the silhouettes of oriental gardens arise like shadows out of the tranquility of the magic lake. Not the slightest breath of air can disturb the deep peace and quietness. The laws of time and space lose all power. Each season exposes the beauty of Hangzhou's West Lake in its own guise. The mystic poetry of the landscape cannot be felt more deeply or intensely than on a foggy and rainy day in the early summer – scenery portrayed in age-old Chinese paintings. These enchanted places are the home of touching myths, tales, and legends.

The lake itself, as well as the history of its origin, even has a very special mythological background. A long time ago, in a time when all creatures on earth lived in unique harmony with the powers of heaven, there once was a dispute amongst the emperors of the earth, dragon, phoenix, and the goddess of heaven. In deep sadness about this disturbance of harmony, a tear dropped out of the eyes of the goddess of heaven and fell down to the earth as a precious pearl. There, where the divine tear touched the land, one of the most beautiful waters in China was created – the West Lake of Hangzhou.

Still today, dragon and phoenix are said to be the embodiment of the terrestrial lordship of emperor and empress. While the dragon expresses imperial attributes like power, wealth, and luck, the phoenix symbolizes the empress and represents traits such as wisdom, steadiness, and longevity.

It is not surprising that, at the same time, this almost magical place marks the stage for one of the most touching love dramas of Chinese literature – the legend of the white snake. It is the great saga of eternity and time, of

## 神奇的饺子\*

蒙蒙烟雨，轻润着肌肤。在细纱般的薄雾后，隐约可见平静湖面上东方园林的剪影。没有一丝风来破坏这静谧。时间和空间已失去力量。杭州西湖的秀美四时不同。初夏时节，特别是烟雨连绵的日子，西湖更显现出一份神秘的诗意之美——宛若古老的山水画卷。这片神奇的土地也诞生了无数神话、故事与传奇。

\*在无数的传说版本中为汤圆。

其实关于西湖的来历，本身就有着颇具神话色彩的说法：本来人间与天界还是和平共处的，但突然有一天，地神、玉龙、金凤还有王母争执起来。王母感伤于天地和谐被破坏，不禁黯然泪下，泪珠掉到地上化作璀璨的珍珠。珍珠汇聚成了中国最美的湖泊之一——杭州西湖。



Solitude at the West  
Lake  
静谧无风的西湖



love and passion, and of life and death.

The warming sun of the receding winter days, whose rays of sunlight made the snow on the arc of bridge melt faster than on both its ends, gave the “broken bridge in the melting snow” its mysterious name.

The sun was shining. It was an early spring day in March, a long time ago. Families with children stood cheerfully next to the broken bridge, just gathering around a huge steaming kettle out of which an old man offered hot and tasty *Jiaozi*. Even in old times this kind of stuffed food was regarded as beloved delicacies of Chinese cuisine. The old man’s *Jiaozi* was widely known and so popular that it usually didn’t take long till the kettle was empty.

“There are just a few tiny *Jiaozi* left,” mumbled the old man with true regret when the little boy Xu Xian appeared holding his father’s hand. “It’s almost time for me to go home.”

“Most incredible,” thought his father, as little Xu Xian, after eating only a single *Jiaozi*, was completely full and refused to eat any more. Mr. Xu almost forgot about this strange incident. It didn’t take long though until he began to wonder if something peculiar or extraordinary had happened on that spring afternoon near the broken bridge, because since eating the single little *Jiaozi*, his son strictly refused to eat. He was completely without appetite but showed no signs of sickness or weakness. After three days, as Xu Xian still refused to eat, his father took him by his hand: “Come on boy, let us see the old man next to the broken bridge again. I really want to know the truth about the *Jiaozi* he gave you last time.”

It had become cooler again. New snow covered the bridge. Once again

至今，龙与凤在中国仍然被看作人间帝王与帝后的象征。龙是帝王的标志，象征权力、财富还有幸运；凤代表帝后，意味着智慧、恒心和长寿。

不难理解，这片具有神话色彩的土地成为中国文学中著名的一幕爱情剧——《白蛇传》的诞生之地。这是一部关于永恒与时间、爱情与激情、存在与消逝的伟大传奇。

冬日将去，阳光渐暖，拱桥中央的积雪在日光的照耀下融化的速度要比桥两端快得多，这就是“断桥残雪”这个神秘命名的由来。

阳光普照大地。这是很久以前的一个早春三月天。断桥前聚集了不少大人和孩子，他们围着个巨大的蒸锅，一个老人正在卖冒着热气的香喷喷的饺子。早在那时，这种带馅儿的面食就已经是中国饮食中令人喜爱的美味。老人的饺子可谓远近闻名，总是不多一会儿就卖光了。

“现在只剩下最后几个小饺子了，”当父亲牵着小许仙的手走到卖饺子老人面前的时候，老人带着歉意说，“我也差不多该回家了。”

“太奇怪了！”父亲看到小许仙吃下一个小饺子后就饱得说什么都不想再吃了，着实有点纳闷。当时老人也没有多想什么。但不久他就开始怀疑那个初春的下午在断桥边是否发生了什么不同寻常的事情。因为自从吃了那个小饺子，小许仙真的什么也不吃了。他没有一点食

the old man's kettle stood there. The scent of tasty and fresh *Jiaozi* filled the air and lots of people gathered around the steaming pot.

“How strange,” muttered the old man behind his kettle, deep and meaningful. “A *Jiaozi* like this only happens once in a thousand years. Nobody knows what effects it may unleash.”

Father Xu had not the time, nor patience for such baffling messages. For days, his son refused to eat – quick help was urgently required. Before he could even utter a reply, the old man grasped the boy, laughed and held him upside down over the balustrade. Instantly, the *Jiaozi* fell out of the boy's mouth and down into the water – just as fresh and mouth-watering as it had been three days ago. Xu Xian's appetite returned immediately – as if nothing spectacular had ever happened to him. Bewildered but satisfied, Mr. Xu returned home with his son – of course, without ordering another *Jiaozi*.

This is just the prologue of our story. There are several variations of this event in the Chinese mythology – sometimes it's totally left out.

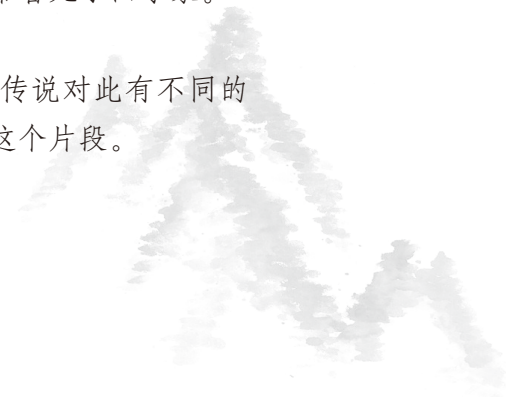
欲，但却没有任何生病或是虚弱的症状。三天过去了，许仙仍然没有食欲，于是许老牵起儿子的手说：“孩子，咱们得再去断桥边拜访那位老人，我要知道他到底在你上次吃的饺子里做了什么手脚。”

天气乍暖还寒。新下的雪覆盖在断桥上。卖饺子老人的锅放在老地方。空气中弥漫着饺子的香味，热气腾腾的大锅旁已经围了好多人。

“稀奇吧，”卖饺子的老人意味深长地说，“这饺子可是千年一遇的。没有人知道它到底有什么奇妙的作用。”

许老可没耐心接受这种猜谜式的说法。几天了，他的儿子一直不想吃东西，得赶紧想法子才是。可没等许老做出什么反应，卖饺子的老人就大笑着把许仙头朝下提起来拎到桥边，这下那只饺子就从小许仙的喉咙掉进了水里——依旧像三天前一样新鲜和香气扑鼻。许仙也马上恢复了胃口，好像什么事情都没有发生过似的。许老又惊又喜，也没敢再买饺子，赶快带着儿子回了家。

这便是故事的前奏。中国的神话传说对此有不同的说法。在一些版本里甚至根本找不到这个片段。



## Turtle and White Snake

At the top of the Evening Glow Mountain, the Leifeng Pagoda arises high above the southern bank of the West Lake, in front of a stage set with dragon boats and fishermen's barges gliding soundlessly over its surface at the break of day. Originating from the epoch of the Five Dynasties and the Ten Kingdoms, it was built in the year 975 at the command of the Wuyue Emperor Qian Chu. In celebration of the birth of his son, conceived by his favorite concubine surnamed Huang, the emperor raised a monument in the form of an octagonal wooden and stone structure.

During the Ming Dynasty, Japanese pirates burned down the wooden parts of the pagoda, leaving nothing but the remains of a stone skeleton that can still be seen today in old Ming paintings.

During the course of the following centuries, the inhabitants, strongly believing in the wondrous powers of the stones, carried away the ruins piece by piece. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1924, the remains collapsed completely, leaving only a mound of stones.

In 1999, the provincial government of Zhejiang finally decided to rebuild the pagoda according to the original architecture – but now as a solid construction of steel, concrete and glass. The foundation walls and the hidden treasures of the ruins remain and can be seen by visitors today. Whilst workers were rebuilding the fundament of the new structure, the appearance of a white snake amongst the timeworn ruins of the pagoda was reported to have been seen...

It happened at a time in the long-forgotten days of the Southern

## 乌龟和白蛇



The Leifeng Pagoda  
雷峰塔风光

在西湖南岸的“夕照山”上矗立着雷峰塔，面对着破晓之际就已经慢慢划过湖面的龙舟和渔船。雷峰塔建于五代十国时期，相传是公元975年吴越国王钱俶为了庆贺他的宠妃黄氏生子而下令建造的一座石木结构的八角塔。

明朝时日本海盗入侵，将雷峰塔木质结构烧毁，只剩了石头塔身。透过明代的画作人们可以追忆当时的苍凉景象。

周遭的百姓们都相信那些石块有神奇的法力，所以多年以来就有人不断地从塔身废墟上偷石头带走。最后到了1924年9月25日，雷峰塔完全倒塌了，只剩下一堆石块。



Song Dynasty – for reasons not even known today, a very unusual *Jiaozi* fell over the railing of the broken bridge far down into the depths of the West Lake. An eerie silence hovered above the lake – a subtle force keeping the waves in motion. Not even in the deepest regions of the lake could it remain unnoticed that the *Jiaozi* from the mouth of a young Chinese boy was a very special one indeed.

In those days, a white snake named Bai Suzhen lived there just below the bridge. Being of divine origin, by living a pure, ascetic, and exemplary life, she aspired for many years to become one with the mortal body. A deep yearning for all human concerns touched her heart. None of her desires was stronger than her devout wish to lead a life amongst those beloved human beings.

Talking and dreaming about the life of mankind on the banks of the West Lake, she spent long nights together with her best friend Xiao Qing, a green snake who also lived quite close to the broken bridge. There were many things they had already heard about the world of the humans – business and trade, music and dance, love and sorrow. How they truly wished to experience the true meanings behind all of these concepts!

Not very far away from the broken bridge there also lived an old turtle named Fa Hai. For many years already, he had been watching both of his neighbors. Filled with a deep distrust, he secretly listened to their private talks. Hate and disgust filled his heart upon hearing the two friends doting on the human world, as nothing was more foreign or alien to his nature than disorder. Nothing could be more condemnable than any deviation from what the turtle considered the norms and laws of eternal existence.

1999年浙江省政府决定按照原样重新修建雷峰塔——当然，为了安全起见，这次用的是钢筋、水泥和玻璃。原有的塔基和在废墟中幸存的珍宝被保留了下来，因此今天的游客仍然可以看到塔的原貌。然而在重建工程刚开始的时候，有人说，在工地的瓦砾间出现了一条白蛇……

很久以前的南宋年间，一粒不寻常的饺子从西湖断桥边落进了水里，人们至今还无法揭开饺子的谜团。当时的湖面出奇地宁静——有一种特别的魔力拂动着水波。深深的水底也难以掩埋关于这个来自一个中国男孩口中的神奇饺子的故事。

就在这桥下面，当时住着一一条名叫白素贞的白蛇。她本是仙身，通过多年的清苦修炼来到人间。白素贞打心眼里渴望成为一个完完全全的凡人。她最大的夙愿，莫过于能够生活在她所钟爱的凡人中间。

她和她最好的朋友小青——一条也住在断桥附近的青蛇——常常一起彻夜谈论和憧憬西湖岸边的生活。关于人间的事情，她们已经听说过许多——比如生意和手艺，音乐和舞蹈，还有爱恋和忧伤。她们俩多么想有朝一日能亲身体会这些词儿背后的含义！

离桥不远，还住着一只名叫法海的老乌龟。他暗中观察这对邻居已经有很多年了。法海总是满腹狐疑地偷听两位芳邻的彻夜长谈。当听到两人憧憬人间生活的时候，仇恨与憎恶充斥了他的心，因为在他看来，没有什

On that particular morning as Mr. Xu rushed home – happy and content about the cure of his son Xian’s mysterious illness, Fa Hai, green with jealousy, watched and saw that his unloved neighbor, as if driven by a magical force, was deeply attracted to the unique *Jiaozi* which only moments before has fallen out of the throat of a young boy down into the calm waters of the West Lake. In an instant, Fa Hai realized that the white snake, with the aid of the savory delicacy, was about to escape from the depths of her native waters.

“Treason,” yelled Fa Hai furiously, enraged about the alleged crime. Calling on his entire strength, the turtle tried in vain to prevent the divine snake Bai Suzhen from devouring the magic *Jiaozi*. Arising from the pureness of her life and the many years of abstinence, the goddess was bestowed by such an overwhelming power that nothing could hinder her reaching the magic *Jiaozi* and swallowing it immediately.

么比不合规矩更难以忍受的了。他认为，任何背离他所谓的规范和准则的想法都应当受到惩罚。

就在许老欢天喜地带着饮食恢复正常的孩子回家的那一天，法海这只嫉妒成性的乌龟发现，他所憎恨的邻居如同受到魔力驱使，被刚从一个男孩嘴里吐出来掉到西湖平静湖水里的那只饺子深深吸引。法海立刻意识到，有了这个美食的帮助，白蛇便可以从湖底逃走了。

“真是大逆不道！”法海不禁大吼，为白蛇的所谓罪行而震怒。于是乌龟使出浑身解数，企图阻止白蛇吃到饺子，但却没能做到。至纯的生命力和长年的清苦修炼赋予白蛇制胜的法力，她抢到了那粒神奇的饺子，立刻吞下了它。



## The White Lady

“Thinking of Jiangnan, then I cherish Hangzhou above all.

At the mountain’s temple, I searched for cinnamon blossom in the moonshine.

On a pillow, the prefecture’s pavilion has sent me a picture of the ebb and flow of the tides.

When can I once again be a traveler?”

Bai Juyi – the famous poet from the Tang Dynasty – gave his name to one of two dams which divide the West Lake into three sections (Bai Causeway). The exquisiteness of the landscape indeed asks for poetic expression. Even the old masters of Chinese literature have told about the lake’s unique beauty. Consequently, the lake’s second dam (Su Causeway) carries the name of another famous poet — Su Dongpo.

The number “three” is a very important number in Chinese philosophy. It symbolizes the triad of heaven, earth, and human beings. The configuration of the West Lake into three parts is no coincidence. The entire landscape is the embodiment of the genius of human thinking. The largest of the three islands, the Xiao Yingzhou Island, also known as the “Fairy Island in the Ocean” with its idyllic ponds, its fragrant tea houses and dreamy gardens, is located in the center. In the southern part, three small stone pagodas arise meaningfully out of the “Three Moon-reflecting Ponds” – another name for the “Fairy Island in the Ocean”.

After battling Fa Hai and securing the wondrous *Jiaozi*, Bai Suzhen, the white snake, was quite near her goal of living a life in human form. She had been spared many further years of ascetic life in the

## 白娘子

“江南忆，最忆是杭州。  
山寺月中寻桂子，  
郡亭枕上看潮头。  
何日更重游？”

西湖被两条长堤一分为三。一条堤坝以唐代诗人白居易而命名（即白堤）。诗意的风光的确需要用诗一般的语言来描绘。很早以前，中国的文人墨客们就在赞咏西湖的美景了。无怪乎西湖的第二条长堤借用了另外一位大诗人苏东坡的名字（苏堤）。



Spring Dawn  
at Su Cause-  
way  
苏堤春晓

在中国智慧学说中，三是一个非常重要的数字。它象征着天、地、人。西湖一分为三也绝非偶然。整个景观设计显然颇具匠心。在湖的中央是三个岛中最大的一个——“小瀛洲”，意思是“海洋中的小仙岛”。岛上有田园风格的池塘，清香飘荡的茶室，还有梦幻般的园



deep waters of the lake. After a few days, the enchantingly stunning young lady began her pursuit of finding a dwelling on the shores of the West Lake. A small wooden house not far from the broken bridge, whose inhabitants had left only a short time ago, seemed to please her quite a lot. Swiftly, an agreement was made with the owners about the price, so that nothing now stood between her moving into the new home.

No one knew where she came from or what her name was. People referred to her only as “the white lady”. She lived in a small wooden house on the shore of the West Lake, not far from the broken bridge. She was like the beautiful moonlight reflected on tranquil waters and yet foreign and enigmatic. The people of the West Lake held her in high regard for her endearing and humble nature. Still, something mysterious in her manner kept most of them at respectful distance.

Three years had passed since the day when Bai Suzhen began her life as the beautiful white lady close to the shores of her home waters. From time to time, the people of Hangzhou spoke about her. They told each other stories of her magical powers and supernatural abilities. On sunny days, she liked to sit on a stone bench on the “Fairy Island in the Ocean” talking to a green snake sprawled next to her in warm sunlight. Passersby, upon observing this strange scene, put their heads together and whispered in bewilderment.

In those days, the goddess Xiao Qing lived in the West Lake of Hangzhou – in the shape of a green snake. For many years, she was Bai Suzhen’s closest friend. They had spent many long nights sitting together philosophizing about existence, and dreaming of human life, and the infinite power of love – experiences they

林。岛南矗立着三座小石塔，因此“小瀛洲”还有一个别有韵味的名字，叫做“三潭印月”。\*



\*潭是指水最深的地方。传说宋朝苏轼在疏浚西湖以后，为了不使湖泥再度淤积，在堤外湖水深处立了三座瓶形石塔，名为“三潭”。

Mid-lake Island  
湖心岛

白蛇白素贞战胜法海得到了那枚神奇的饺子，她变成人的梦想也就快要实现了。她不必继续在水下进行更多年头的修行。仅仅几天之后这位神秘而又美丽的年轻女子便来到西湖岸边寻找住处。离断桥不远有一座小木屋几天前刚刚空出来，让白素贞很是中意。她很快和房主谈妥价钱，就顺利搬入新居了。

没有人知道她从哪儿来，也没有人知道她的芳名。人们称她为“白娘子”。她住在西湖岸边离断桥不远的一座小木屋里。她就像静静的水面上倒映的月光般美丽，与众不同，还充满着神秘。这里的人们欣赏她可爱而又谦逊的品行，但是因为她们身世不明，大多数乡亲们不免对她敬而远之。

白素贞以白娘子的身份在湖边住了差不多三年。杭州城的人们有时会谈起她。有人说她会魔法，拥有超自